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August 10, 2000

FDA's Dockets Management Branch
300 12th Street, NW, Room 102
Cotton Annex
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

RE: DOCKET No. 00N-0504

Dear Sir or Madam:

The FDA's Egg Safety Plan does not address the primary causes of Salmonella Enteritidis infection of hens and eggs: *overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, inhumane treatment of birds.*

Inhumane treatment includes forced molting, which suppresses the hens' immune systems and makes them prey to Salmonella infection as their eggs are being formed in their ovaries. This starvation practice – deprivation of food for 5 – 14 days - that is used by the egg industry to manipulate egg laying for economic purposes is cruel to the animals and unhealthy for humans.

The USDA has acknowledged through its own studies that forced molting is a primary cause of Salmonella poisoning of eggs. **Forced molting must be banned immediately.**

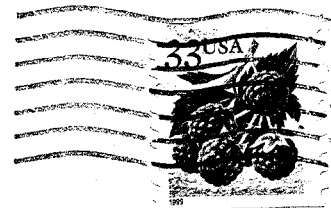
Sincerely,



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